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National Stage

Preliminary Amendment

International Application No.
PCT/GB2003/005380

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL: ER 224689656 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: Nigel Paul Schofield

Attorney Docket No.: M02B160

International Application No. PCT/GB2003/005380

Group Art Unit:

International Application Filing Date: December 9, 2003

National Application Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Title: Vacuum Pumping System and Method of Operating a Vacuum Pumping Arrangement

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

37 C.F.R. § 1.115

Dear Sir:

Prior to examining the above-identified application, please amend the above-identified application as follows: